

HIGH ON A HILL: IN HONOR OF AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY AND THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPITOL CONCERTS ON THIS 4TH OF JULY, BY THE COLBERT FAMILY AND PBS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of America's birthday, on this Fourth of July. Also, in honor of the Colbert family who created the Capitol Concerts annual Fourth of July celebration broadcast to millions across our Nation each year on PBS. This year marks its 33rd anniversary. I ask every American to take the time to remember all of our families in harm's way and their loved ones. And to reflect upon all of those who have fallen on battlefields of honor, and all of our wounded warriors across the Nation, so that we may be here this day. I submit this poem, penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

HIGH ON A HILL

High!
High on a Hill!
As once each year,
Our Nation is given so such a thrill. . .
As so appears. . .
America's great Birthday Party so here. . .
As all out across this County Tis of Thee,
This celebration so PBS!
Broadcasting to young and old,
Yea Jerry and Michael, they the Men, pre-
sented broadcast gold!
And out to all of our Armed Forces, All in
Harm's Way,
As from where America's Greatest Honor so
comes this day!
As for all of them and their families we now
so pray!
And as the music starts,
It so urges us all to so get up and so dance!
To so celebrate this great romance,
Of America's Birthday as another year does
so advance!
While all in the front rows,
Are all of those, America's Greatest Heroes!
Her Wounded Warriors,
Who for all of us all have such selfless mag-
nificence so chose!
As it's all so here in our Nation's Capitol!
A place where history now so rules!
As PBS and The Capitol Concerts,
Brings to us the entertainment world's real
who's who!
All in Democracy's home,
Asking us all to towards Freedom and Inde-
pendence to so let all our hearts so
roam!
As it all so began,
When a great Boston family, the Colberts',
so lent their helping hand!
To so create The Capitol Concerts celebra-
tion,
33 years ago they created this great sensa-
tion!
As high up on this Hill,
As where they so broadcast to so give all a
thrill!
And the reception's better here still!
So that all out across the heartland,
America's homes are no so filled!
So filled,
With Rock and Roll, Country Western,
To Classical music to inspire our very souls!
For you will never so see,
Such a more inspiring sight than all of
these. . .
All in the shadow of The United States Cap-
itol,

And The Washington Monument with fire-
works exploding all in DC!
As your heart so begins to rule!
As we all celebrate our Nation's Birthday,
With all of our families so very cool!
And maybe next year on your bucket list,
Come to this city surrounded by consequence
and so join all of us!
Come and sing and dance,
And let Freedom ring as you fall for its ro-
mance!

But, in the meantime. . .
Turn on your flat screen, as a Nation we all
so unite!
As all of our Yankee Doodle Dandy Hearts,
Climb up to such new heights!
High on a Hill!
For you will not so find a greater thrill!
Than, America's Birthday all on The Fourth
of July,
All up on Capitol Hill!
Happy Birthday, America,
As Our Best is Yet to Come Still!

40 YEARS OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE PORTUGUESE CHURCH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the rich heritage of Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church as they celebrate 40 years of worship and friendship in Turlock, California.

Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church in Turlock is the most recent of Portuguese national churches in the United States. Its origins go back to a small church blessed and dedicated on Monday, June 11, 1973. With the influx of thousands of Portuguese immigrants to California in the 1800s, after the eruptions of the Capelinhos volcano in 1957–1958, the stage was set for the development of a new parish with a clear mission to Portuguese immigrants in the Central Valley of California. Although relatively young, Our Lady of the Assumption has a rich history, shaped by several important events in the second half of the 20th century.

In the 1960s Father Manuel Vieira Alvernaz, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Turlock, invited two young Portuguese missionaries to stay in his parish and minister to the Portuguese community. The two, Fathers Ivo Dinis Rocha and José Carlos Vieira Simplicio, officially began their ministry on March 1, 1969. One of the first things the missionaries noticed was that the Portuguese youth yearned for places of belonging and meaning; they reached out to the young by forming a youth group in 1969.

On June 1, 1972, 12 individuals acquired the original five acre property at 2602 S. Walnut Road. This became the site of the Portuguese Cultural Center and eventually, the home of Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church. On June 11, 1973, the chapel of the Portuguese Cultural Center was dedicated and blessed; this is considered the beginning of the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption. On June 22, 1973 the Feast of St. John the Baptist was celebrated for the first time. The first parish festival in honor of the Patroness Our Lady of the Assumption took place on Sunday August 19, 1973, i.e., the third Sunday of the month.

In 1975, the Portuguese Cultural Center purchased an additional five acre parcel to accommodate growth and expansion. The parcel was purchased for \$38,000. Escrow was closed on March 25th and corresponded with the Feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary by the angel St. Gabriel. A large parish hall was built in 1984 and has become the gathering place for many beautiful celebrations including weddings and receptions.

In September of 1982, Father Rocha invited Father Richard Forti, who was also campus minister at Stanislaus State College, to celebrate a Sunday Mass in English and serve as a part-time youth minister and confirmation coordinator. By welcoming Father Forti, Our Lady of the Assumption was opening itself to the larger Church and society. The Sunday Mass in English at 9 a.m. would become a magnet attracting members from neighboring parishes and from non churchgoers in the area setting the stage for future conflict and growth. By 1986, approximately one thousand people participated at Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption in both languages.

Over the years, the church continued to grow from the original five acre parcel consisting of a small house, garage and chicken coop. In 1992, plans were started for a new church. With the help of over 2,000 donors the new church was consecrated on August 16, 1998. The property now includes 18.2 acres with two community halls, two houses, three soccer fields, the original chapel, and the new church.

Our Lady of the Assumption maintains a strong presence among the sick in the Central Valley with a team of 20 ministers who visit local hospitals. In July of 2006, with the leadership of Margaret Santiago, Michaleen Klee and Father Manuel Sousa, the parish embraced Stephen Ministry. A team of 11 trained listeners, with over 50 hours of classroom instruction and on-going supervision, are available to accompany people suffering from depression, loneliness, isolation and difficult life transitions. Parishioners and non-parishioners alike have benefitted from this competent, faith-based, extended hand of friendship and prayer.

Currently, the parish roster contains 1,300 families, approximately 85% with Portuguese surnames. Sunday Mass attendance is over 1,000 in the winter months, with 60 percent of Sunday participation being in English services and 40 in Portuguese.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Our Lady of the Assumption of the Portuguese Church in Turlock and the tremendous opportunities that lay ahead in their efforts to fulfill a vision for the future. Congratulations on the past 40 years, and I wish them the best success in the years to come.

HONORING MS. DANEISHA
DOMINIQUE MCGOWAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Daneisha Dominique McGowan, a dedicated student, who is making the difference in her commu-
nity.